

REMARKSAmendments

The claim numbering of the parent application (Application No. 09/923,893) as filed was incorrect, i.e. there were two claims numbered "12", two numbered "13", and two numbered "34". In the listing of claims above, the claims have been renumbered to correct this error. This application is a divisional application of Application No. 09/923,893, which was allowed with claims 2 - 13, 36, and 37. During prosecution of the parent application, a restriction requirement was made and the claims of Group I were prosecuted in that application. These were claims 1-13, 36, and 37 (referring to renumbered claims). In the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 - 13, 36, and 37 have been canceled, and the remaining claims of Groups II (i.e. claims 14 - 31, 34, and 35) and III (i.e. claims 32 and 33) have been amended in order to correct the claim numbering and claim dependencies resulting from the original numbering errors. In addition, two new claims, claims 38 and 39, dependent on claims 14 and 15, respectively, have been added. Basis for these claims is found on page 8, lines 30 - 34 of the specification.

In the descriptive part of the specification, minor typographical errors have been corrected in paragraphs 0048 and 0049. The name of the microencapsulated blowing agent, Expancel 092-DU-120, shown in Table II and paragraph 0047, was corrected in Table IV. The thickness of the test strips in paragraphs 0048 and 0049 was corrected.

Disclosure Under 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents were submitted or cited during the prosecution of the parent application.